



Newsletter

3rd March 2023 | Issue 23



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Dear Families,

It has been a purposeful week at St John's School, where students continue to apply themselves towards their learning. I have been fortunate to get into a large number of lessons over the course of this week and I have seen some excellent examples of teaching and learning. We continue to plan our lessons around the effective use of Assessment for Learning. To this end I have seen students teaching one another key concepts, themes and ideas. Student presentations given to the class with their peers carefully articulating constructive feedback. Small group competitions as students recall key words and definitions as a short, sharp 'do it now' task.



Our two new teachers, Mrs Lamb and Mr O'Missenden continue to settle well and have this week taken on their full teaching timetable.

Temperatures are noticeably on the rise over this past week and provide a real contrast in weather to this time last year. As temperatures rise, please can I ask parents to check your child is bringing with them a water bottle so they can stay hydrated at school. Students are kindly asked to fill up their bottles at breaktimes and not between lessons to ensure they are on time and get the most out of their lessons.



As you may have seen on Facebook, I was visited by Grace last Friday. Grace is a former student of St John's School, who left in 1961. Visiting with her daughter and grandson I was proud to tour them around our school and find the opportunity for her to meet and engage with so many of our students. The school accommodation has much changed since Grace left, however the site is still the same and it was interesting to hear how she used to live in Limassol and be transported with her peers to the school on the back of military trucks protected by armed personnel. Although much has changed, Grace, like so many of our alumni, have cherished memories of their time at St John's School, memories I know our students will have of their own in years to come.

Mr Colin Guyton Headteacher



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This week at St John's School in pictures





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This week at St John's School in pictures



Students read with pupils from Episkopi
Primary School as part of World Book day



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Year 9 Options Afternoon

Monday 6th March, 1430—1600 hrs

Parents of Year 9 are cordially invited to attend the upcoming Options Afternoon which will take place in our School Hall between 1430 and 1600 hrs on Monday 6th March 2023.

The afternoon will give you an opportunity to hear from Mr Steve Dixon about the Options process and subjects that are available to study at GCSE. Parents and students will then have an opportunity to meet with teachers of option subjects to find out more about each course in order to help inform your child's decision making.

When choosing GCSE options, think about:

- Combinations of subjects
- Ensuring you study a range of subjects
- Keeping your future options open
- Choosing subjects that you enjoy
- Your future - do the subjects support your emerging ideas and career ambitions?

Take care to avoid:

- Choosing subjects because you like a particular teacher
- Choosing subjects because of your friends

Unable to attend?

If you are unable to attend Monday's Year 9 Options Afternoon, please email Mrs Hayley Stonier who will be able to provide further advice and guidance. Hayley can be reached at Hayley.Stonier@modschoools.org



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Year 7 Nurture Group

Wednesday 1st March saw the final session for our current Year 7 Nurture Group. The group have been working together, looking at the skills that support being kind, caring and thoughtful members of our school as well as the wider community. It was really rewarding to hear about some of the great work that they have done, see the thoughtful and focused resources that they have produced and to experience the positivity that they have fostered within the group over the past few months. Well done to all of the Year 7 pupils involved! Also a big thank you to Mrs Davis for leading this successful programme.





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Meet Mr Daniel O'Missenden

Teacher of Mathematics

Hi, my name is Danny O'Missenden and I am really excited to have joined St John's School to teach Maths.

I have been in Cyprus with my husband and two children, Bradley and Joey, since the start of the half term, however this is not the first time I have lived here. Being the son of a member of the Armed Forces I have been lucky enough to have lived in several different places, including Laarbruch in Germany, and also here in Episkopi. During my time here, I was actually a student at St John's School where I completed my GCSEs and A Levels so it's been great coming back and really nice to catch up with some of the people that taught me or my brothers when we were younger. I hope that some day I can inspire some of my students to go on to teach and who knows... maybe they will also come back to St John's to teach.



Maths has always been a passion of mine and I went straight from my A-Levels to university where I studied Mathematics with Education. After graduating I went on to teach in several different settings, including the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester where I was the Senior Education Officer. Whilst there, my love for learning led me back to university where I completed an LLM in International Humanitarian Law. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learnt a lot, however my passion remains firmly within the classroom as a Teacher of Mathematics.

Whilst in schools I haven't just taught Maths, I also led Duke of Edinburgh and a World Challenge Expedition. For this I took a group of fifteen Year 11 students to Southeast Asia where we trekked through the jungle, helped to renovate a school and immersed ourselves in different cultures; I hope to do something similar again one day because it such a valuable experience for the students.

On a personal level, I have a range of different interests, but my two favourite things (apart from my husband and children) are crochet and Coronation Street which is a standard evening for me – exciting I know. I also like football and try to watch every Tottenham game, although lately this hasn't been the most pleasurable of experiences!

I am so pleased to be back here in Cyprus and am so excited to begin teaching my classes from Monday. I have been in to see most of the students I'll be teaching and I can already see just how great they are.



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Year 11 Core Revision Classes

As we enter into the final 9 weeks before the GCSE final examinations begin, students are invited to attend the various revision classes that run after school throughout the week.

Some students have been identified as needing to attend and parents of these students have already been contacted, however all students can, and are encouraged, to attend over the coming 9 weeks.

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor Time 1400—1500hrs	Week 1	English	Assembly	Maths	Assembly	Science
	Week 2	Staffing Meeting	Maths	Geography Food Tech	Science	English
	Week 3	Staffing Meeting	Maths	Music Geography Food Tech	Science MFL	English

Number of weeks until the GCSE, BTEC & A-Level Exams commence

9



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EPraise Parent Communication Website and App

To centralise and improve our communication, whilst facilitating you as a parent to see how well your child is getting on at school, we are going to use EPraise. We have had access to EPraise for some time and our students will be familiar with it as a reward system. However, we have invested in a wider range of functionality and we invite parents to register for an online account.



Logging In

You will initially need to register by downloading the EPraise App or by visiting their website via:

www.epraise.co.uk/index.php?school=stjohnscyprus&login=parents

1. Select the parent tab on the EPraise log in form
2. Click the register button.
3. Enter the email address previously provided to St John's School and request the login code
4. EPraise will send an email to the registered email account. This email contains a code, which you must then use as the password to login for the first time.

Note:

The password link remains active for 24 hours so you will need to create the password within that time or repeat the steps above to obtain a new email. Sometimes emails can take a few minutes to arrive or are automatically redirected to the junk folder so it is worth checking before re-registering your account.

Trouble Registering?

Should you encounter difficulties it is possible the email address we have for you is out of date. To update your email address or to notify us of difficulties please email Mr Barber who will gladly assist you in logging on. Mr Barber's email is Dave.Barber@modschoools.org



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EPraise Website Tabs

At the top of the webpage or app, there are a variety of tabs which link to the information details below:

Me > Settings

Here you can change your password, which we recommend to avoid obtaining a registration code each time you log on. Through the settings tab you can also set your notification preferences.

Me > Messages

Messages will eventually allow you to send and receive messages from your child's/children's teacher. At present it is our intention to use this facility to push out notifications to you as a parent. For example letters and the weekly newsletter will come through EPraise Messages.

My Children > Profile

You can view your child/children's profiles under the my Children Tab. Here you can see their school attendance, reward point tally and timetable. Further functionality will be launched in due course.

My Children > Planner

Here you will be able to view all of your child's/children's homework and notes set by their teachers. You will have the option to see any attachments included and can see which are set, due, overdue or completed.

Community > Get Involved

Here you will see various enrichment activities available to your child/children and where you can sign them up. They even earn points indicated by the activities with praise points in the corner.

Community > Parents' Evening

You will soon be able to see allocated parents' afternoon events displayed here. When a parents' afternoon approaches, you will be able to book appointments to see their teacher. To do this simply select the 'book appointment' button and fill in the details.



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EPraise App Tabs

Once you are logged into the app you are presented with a menu page and a variety of tabs which link to the information details below:

Profile

The first part of the App you land on is the profile of your child/children at St John's School. Here for each child you can obtain an overview of their reward point tally, a detailed breakdown of where these points have been accrued from their current school attendance percentage, which can be clicked upon for more detail.



More > App > Settings

Found on the top right hand side of the App. You can find a more detailed menu and the links to the App's broader functionality. At the bottom of the menu, you can change your password under the header App > Settings.

More > Community

Under the More tab beneath the Community Header, you will also find:

- An overview of the various enrichment activities available to your child/children and where you can sign them up. They even earn points indicated by the activities with praise points in the corner
- A link to Parents' Evenings. When a parents' afternoon approaches, you will be able to book appointments to see their teacher. To do this simply select the 'book appointment' button and fill in the details.

Messages

The Messages tab can be found at the top of the App. Messages will eventually allow you to send and receive messages from your child's/children's teacher. At present it is our intention to use this facility to push out notifications to you as a parent. For example letters and the weekly Headteachers Newsletter will come through EPraise Messages.



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Join us during Careers week!



Scan to
register!



Careers Week at Medic Mentor

Medic Mentor's sole focus is to mentor, support and provide advice and guidance to students interested in applying for medicine, dentistry and veterinary courses. During Careers Week, we are hosting amazing events for those who are interested in exploring careers within the medical sector.

Join us on Tuesday 5:45 - 6:45pm as we explore key information from each career during one of our Virtual Medical, Veterinary or Dental Societies meetings.

Or attend the Get Into Medicine Conference or Get Into Dentistry Conference on this weekend to learn everything you need to about the application process and find out what it's like to be a doctor or dentist.

If you'd prefer to see more hands on learning experiences, then sign up to our Live Virtual Work Experience sessions in Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry.

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SPACE Theatre
presents...

The

WIZARD
of

Show Times
10 Mar 6pm
11 March 2pm & 6pm
12 Mar 2pm

"The Pantomime"

St John's School Epi

Tickets:
Adults €10, Children €5, Under 5's Free
Available from Homestart, HIVE, WRVS &
Epi Community Office

Tickets can also be purchased at St John's School Reception



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Headteacher's Surgery— Akrotiri Hive

On Friday 10th March 0900—1000 hrs, parents and/or members of the BFC community are welcome to drop in without appointment to meet the Headteacher, Colin Guyton, to discuss any ideas or issues concerning St John's School.

This approach draws similarities from the MP Local Constituency Surgeries you maybe familiar with in the UK and it is hoped that it will prove a useful opportunity to share ideas that help improve the provision we provide to the young people in our care.



The next Headteacher's Surgery will take place at the Akrotiri Hive

Let's be friends!

Be sure to add us as a friend of Facebook to keep up to date with what is happening at St John's School

www.facebook.com/stjohnsschoolcyprus

Upcoming School Events

This Week

All Week

Monday 6th March

Wednesday 8th March

Friday 10th March

Careers Week

Core Mock Exams

Year 9 Option Evening : 1430— 1600hrs

Interschool Football Competition : 1300hrs

Careers Fair

Headteachers Surgery Akrotiri Hive : 0900—1000hrs

Next Week

Friday 17th March

Duke of Edinburgh—Bronze Expedition

SJS Coffee Morning 0800—1000 hrs

Bookings required via SJS.enquiries@modschoools.org